Agricultural Production in Orissa

3536. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of foodgrains is lowest in Orissa in comparison to national level;

(b) whether it is a fact that World Bank has opined that growth rate of agriculture in Orissa as NIL; and

(c) what steps are being taken to accelerate growth rate of agricultural sector in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The production/productivity of foodgrains in Orissa vis-a-vis at all India level during 1996-97 to 1998-99 is given as under:

(Prudction in Lakhs)
(Productivity in Kg./Hectare)

	Orissa		All India	
	P	pd	P	pd
1996-97	48.31	903	199.44	1614
1997-98	66.38	1211	192.26	1552
1998-99	58.07	1080	203.04	1620

p-production, pd-productivity.

(b) The State Government have informed that they are not aware of the context in which the World Bank has opined that the growth rate in Agriculture Sector in Orissa is nil. However, the information is being obtained from the World Bank to ascertain fact.

(c) Steps are being taken to modernise agriculture in the State through:

1. Developing suitable varieties of different crops which can withstand adverse climatic conditions.
2. Better transfer of technology.
3. Streamlining input management system.
4. Commercialising agriculture.
5. Implementation of special production programmes under Central Sector and Centrally sponsored schemes.
6. Creating more marketing facilities.